Appointment of Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam as Vice-Chancellor

4929. SHRI K. R. MALKANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a move afoot to shift Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam from Missile Development Programme and post him as Vice-Chancellor of some University, as reported by the Hindustan Times dated March 31, 1994.; and

(b) if so, whether Government would consider keeping him in our Missile Programme for its continuity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) The Government does not propose to shift Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam to other post.

Offers of arms flow from Western countries

4930. SHRI AHMED MOHMEDBHAI PATEL :
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to sinking market in Western countries offers of arms flow to India from Western arms manufacturing firms have reached New Delhi to supply and upgrade India's obsolete and scare military equipment;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken an advantage and has decided to purchase arms to meet the shortage;

(c) whether three major suppliers and manufacturers of defence hardware from Spain have offered military assistance to India during the month of March;

(d) whether supplying of aeronautical air-borne system and ground support equipment for military aircrafts was also discussed by the delegation with the Indian authorities; and

(e) to what extent India has been able to achieve success in obtaining arms and whether any agreement has been reached ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to(c) The decisions of the Government to purchase weapons, arms and ammunitions, are based on the requirements duly assessed after analysis of the present and future threat scenario. Offers received for supply of weapons and equipment from manufacturers are examined with reference to the requirements, and only offers of interest related to the planned purchase of equipment are considered for further evaluation and finalisation. Certain offers from Spain for providing design consultancy and transfer of technology have been received.

Proposal to raise Air Defence Corps in the army

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to raise an exclusive Air Defence Corps in the Army to provide ground cover to IAF fighter planes

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what steps Government have taken to meet the challange posed by induction of F-16s into the Pakistani Airforce;

(d) the number of F-16s at present in possession of Pakistan and the number of F-16s likely to be purchased by Pakistan from US and the details thereof; and

(e) to what extent these aircrafts are likely to pose a threat to the security of the country and what steps Government have taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Recently Air Defence Branch of Artillery has been bifurcated from Uni Field Branch and restructured into Corps of AD Artillery.

(c) to (e) Pakistan is holding 34 F-16 aircraft at present. According to the available information USA proposes to supply 38 more F-16 aircraft under a one time waiver of the Pressler's amendment. Adequate measures are being taken to counter the accretion in Pakistan's force level. It will not be in the interests of National Security to give details in the regard.